Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

# Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 246422

70
ORIGIN ARA-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /003 R

66616
DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN/CR:JGSULLIVAN
ARA/CEN:DLAZAR
S/S-O:PJOHNSON
---------- 030953
O 080329Z NOV 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY QUITO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 246422

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

FOLLOWING REPEAT SAN JOSE 4248 ACTION SECSTATE DATED 7 NOV 74
QUOTE
C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 4248

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, CS
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT ODUBER COMMENTS PUBLICLY ON VESCO MATTER

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: "LA NACION" PUBLISHED THE FOURTH OF A MULTIPART INTERVIEW SERIES WITH PRESIDENT DANIEL ODUBER ON NOVEMBER 6 WHERE THE PRESIDENT PRESENTED AT SOME LENGTH HIS VIEWS ON ROBERT VESCO'S PRESENCE IN COSTA RICA AND THE USG POSTURE WITH REGARD TO HIS PRESENCE. MUCH OF HIS COMMENT REPORTEDLY DEALT WITH THE USG 1973 EXTRADITION ATTEMPT. FOLLOWING ARE RELEVANT QUOTES FROM "LA NACION:"

2. "I HAVE BEEN AWARE THAT VESCO HAD IMPORTANT ENEMIES ABROAD AND THAT WHEN HE TIED IN WITH DON PEPE HERE, IN BUSINESS OR IN AN INTIMATE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP, THIS PLACED VESCO AT ODDS WITH ALL OF DON PEPE'S ENEMIES IN COSTA RICA. HE WAS A CONTROVERSIAL FOREIGNER IN THE COUNTRY AND THIS HAD TO BE EXPECTED."
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 246422

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

3. "I HAVE HAD (INFORMATION) ABOUT VESCO FROM U.S. OFFICIALS
IN THE SEC, THE WHITE HOUSE, AND THE DEPARTMENT
OF STATE. I KNEW THAT VESCO WAS A MAN THAT
INTERESTED THEM, FROM THE POLITICAL STANDPOINT, IN
THE UNITED STATES. I ALSO WAS AWARE, AS A DEPUTY
(EMBASSY NOTE: ODUBER WAS PRESIDENT OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY BEFORE BECOMING A PRESIDENTIAL
CANDIDATE), AND LATER, FROM AFAR, IN THE POLITICAL
CAMPAIGN, THAT EVERYTHING RELATED TO THESUAMOUS
1973 EXTRADITION (ODUBER PARENTHETICALL6: "OR THE
ATTEMPTED EXTRADITION") HAD BEEN MANIPULATED IN
SUCH A WAY THAT IT APPEARQAED AS A DESIRE TO FULFILL
A REQUIREMENT, BUT WAS NOT A SERIOUS DESIRE TO BRING THE
MAN, THROUGH THE JUDICIAL PROCESS TO THE U.S. COURTS.
IN TWO WORDS, THEY WANTED TO HAVE PUBLIC OPINION
BELIEVE THAT THEY WANTED HIM, BUT IN REALITY THEY DID
NOT WANT HIM. THIS WAS THE SITUATION. THIS WAS A
MOCKERY ("DE RIDICULO") OF COSTA RICA AND I CONSIDER
IT OFFENSIVE TO NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS."

4. "BEYOND ALL THE EMOTIONS, IN FAVOR AND AGAINST
THIS GENTLEMAN, I HAVE THE OBLIGATION TO BEHAVE AS
PRESIDENT OF COSTA RICANS AND TO REPRESENT THIS
REPUBLIC WITH DIGNITY TO FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS."

5. IN THE CRIMINAL AREA, VESCO WILL BE THE SUBJECT
OF EXTRADITION WHEN, IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR TREATIES
AND OUR LAWS, THE SUPREME COURT DETERMINES IT.
IN OTHER WORDS, IN THE CRIMINAL AREA, AS PRESIDENT
OF THE REPUBLIC, I WILL DO AS THE COURT INDICATES.
WE HAVE IN COSTA RICA AN EXCELLENT COURT SYSTEM
AND THOSE WHO WANT TO CAN COME AND PLACE ANY
CHARGES THEY WISH (IN THE CIVIL FIELD) IN ORDER TO RECOVER THE
WEALTH THAT, ACCORDING TO THEM, VESCO TOOK FROM A LARGE NUMBER OF
SHAREHOLDERS. I AM SURE THAT ANY SHAREHOLDER,
ESPECIALLY WHEN SUPPORTED BY U.S. INSTITUTIONS, IF HE
DESIRES CAN INITIATE A CASE AND DISCUSS IN THE
COSTA RICAN COURTS ANYTHING THAT IS BEING DEBATED
REGARDING THE PROPERTY AND FORTUNE OF MR. VESCO."

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL



5. "FROM THE (NATIONAL) POINT OF VIEW I
AM PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THIS MATTER. FIRST, THAT
THIS MONEY (VESCO'S) BEING DISCUSSED AROUND THE WORLD
AND APPARENTLY WITHOUT A LEGALLY SECURE OWNER SHOULD
COME TO COSTA RICA AND BE INVESTED HERE.
HOPEFULLY, IN TANGIBLE THINGS. AND THAT IT BE HERE
THAT THE PROPRIETY OF THIS MONEY SHOULD BE DISCUSSED BECAUSE,
IN THE LONG RUN, AS HAS HAPPENED IN OTHER HISTORICAL

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

CASES, MUCH OF THIS WEALTH WOULD REMAIN IN THE
COUNTRY, IN (THE FORM OF) FEES, COURT COSTS, TAXES,
AND A SERIES OF OTHER THINGS. WHEN I WROTE THE
LETTER OF MAY 7, I INSISTED TO MR. VESCO THAT I
WANTED HIS INVESTMENTS FROM HIS FORTUNE OR FROM THE
WEALTH HE BROUGHT FROM ABROAD TO BE KNOWN BY ME
PERSONALLY OR BY MY OFFICIALS. (AND THAT THE INVESTMENTS
BE MADE) IN LAND, IN BUILDINGS, IN SHARES OF SOUND
BUSINESSES AND THAT ALL BE MAINTAINED IN ORDER SO
THAT, IF NECESSARY, SOME DAY ALL OF THIS COULD BE
AIRED IN THE COURTS."

6. IN CONCLUSION, ODUBER REPORTEDLY SAID, "WHAT
HAS BEEN SPECULATED ABOUT MR. VESCO IS, IN GREAT
PART, STIMULATED BY U.S. POLITICAL INTERESTS AND BY
COSTA RICAN POLITICAL INTERESTS. I HAVE CAREFULLY
FOLLOWED ALL THIS CONTROVERSY AND THERE ARE TWO THINGS
THAT I CANNOT ACCEPT. ONE, THAT A LAUGHING STOCK BE MADE OF THE
COSTA RICAN COURTS BECAUSE OF INTERNAL U.S. POLITICS. THIS SEEMS
TO ME OFFENSIVE TO THE COURTS AND OFFENSIVE TO THE
COUNTRY. TWO, THAT COSTA RICAN LAWS BE EVADED OR
RIDICULED REGARDING EXTRADITION AND REGARDING THE
RIGHT OF ASYLUM THAT I MENTIONED. (ODUBER DISCUSSED
IN A PARAGRAPH NOT INCLUDED IN THIS CABLE THE TRADITIONAL
COSTA RICAN WELCOME TO ASYLEES.)
LANE
UNQUOTE
INGERSOLL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

# Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994
**Channel Indicators:** n/a
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED
**Concepts:** EXTRADITION, PRESS COMMENTS
**Control Number:** n/a
**Copy:** SINGLE
**Draft Date:** 08 NOV 1974
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960
**Decaption Note:**
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED
**Disposition Approved on Date:**
**Disposition Authority:** GarlanWA
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004
**Disposition Event:**
**Disposition History:** n/a
**Disposition Reason:**
**Disposition Remarks:**
**Document Number:** 1974STATE246422
**Document Source:** CORE
**Document Unique ID:** 00
**Drafter:** JGSULLIVAN
**Enclosure:** n/a
**Executive Order:** GS
**Errors:** N/A
**Film Number:** D740321-0329
**From:** STATE
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a
**Image Path:**
**ISecure:** 1
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19741158/aaaabxhi.tel
**Line Count:** 143
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
**Office:** ORIGIN ARA
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a
**Page Count:** 3
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a
**Reference:** n/a
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED
**Review Authority:** GarlanWA
**Review Comment:** n/a
**Review Content Flags:**
**Review Date:** 16 SEP 2002
**Review Event:**
**Review Exemptions:** n/a
**Review History:** RELEASED <16 SEP 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <25 MAR 2003 by GarlanWA>
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**
**Review Referrals:** n/a
**Review Release Date:** n/a
**Review Release Event:** n/a
**Review Transfer Date:**
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a
**Secure:** OPEN
**Status:** NATIVE
**Subject:** PRESIDENT ODUBER COMMENTS PUBLICLY ON VESCO MATTER
**TAGS:** PFOR, PGOV, CS, UR, (VESCO, ROBERT), (ODUBER, DANIEL)
**To:** QUITO
**Type:** TE
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005